

Duggan Says Basement Shelters are 'Useless'

Thermonuclear holocaust, its survival, and the role of the fallout shelter were the subjects discussed at last week's meeting of the Vienna Woods Citizens' League.

The fallout shelter dangers and disadvantages for the Washington area were stressed by William Duggan, Vienna Civil Defense Committee coordinator, who favors a "blast shelter" program.

Mr. Duggan feels that because of this area's proximity to a strategic target area, fallout shelters -- even when properly constructed -- are worse than useless and might prove to be expensive death traps in the event of a Washington area blast which would, through blast pressures, cause the collapse of the building above them.

He reports that this blast

effect would be "enough to destroy almost all proposed fallout shelters." Safe construction could be assured only in a shelter three to six feet underground, protected by a reinforced concrete slab, he says.

A 90-DAY STAY

Mr. Duggan projects a 90-day stay in the safety of a blast shelter for protection against radiation peril in this area should a blast strike Washington.

One of the necessities of post-blast living is knowledge of medical principles of better than first-aid caliber and another is the ownership of a radiation detection kit, Mr. Duggan points out.

He currently is preparing a report on Vienna Civil Defense Committee recommendations for presentation before the Town Council at an executive session this week.

He reports that one of his Committee's recommendations is that basement fallout shelters be prohibited in Vienna Town's building code.

Sharing the program with Mr. Duggan at the League's meeting was Lee R. Byrd, representative from National Fallout Shelters, Inc., manufacturers of the shelter most highly rated by the Office of Civil Defense.

REPEAT TALK

A repeat talk on "Survival" with Mr. Duggan discussing the problems involved, is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. at the Vienna Fire Department Flame Room.

The public is invited to attend and have their questions on the subject answered.

John Victor also spoke to the League on the need for more planning in communications in the event of a disaster, and William Price pointed out the effect of a sturdy Civil Defense program on U. S. foreign policy.

CPYRGHT